

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, CPRS, MORG, EG, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MISSION REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE (MILITARY
HOSPITAL IN ASSIUT)

REF: CAIRO 7391

1. IN ABSENCE OF DETAILS ON TALKS, DISCUSSIONS AND
EXCHANGES BETWEEN AMERICAN MISSION AND EGYPTIAN ARMY
REGARDING EVENTUAL DISPOSITION OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL
IN ASSIUT, DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO OFFER MEANINGFUL ADVICE
AND GUIDANCE AT THIS TIME. UNDER NORMAL PROCEDURES,
APPROACH TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AS PROVIDED
IN THE 1976 PRIVATE CLAIMS AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, IS A LAST
STEP AFTER EXHAUSTION OF AVAILABLE LOCAL EGYPTIAN ADMINIS-
TRATIVE AND LEGAL REMEDIES. DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO DETER-
MINE WHETHER STAGE HAS BEEN REACHED AND TIME IS APPROPRIATE
FOR EMBASSY TO TAKE MATTER UP FORMALLY WITH MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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2. IN THE ABSTRACT, DEPARTMENT CAN ENVISAGE A NUMBER OF
POINTS WHICH EMBASSY MIGHT TAKE UP IN CONTEMPLATED DISCUS-
SIONS WITH MR. LORIMER OF AMERICAN MISSION. EMBASSY WOULD
HAVE TO MAKE JUDGMENT ON DESIRABLE COURSE OF ACTION ON
BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING NUMBER OF

MATTERS, INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE: (1) WHETHER AMERICAN MISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR DISPOSITION OF MILITARY HOSPITAL ARE REASONABLE; (2) WHETHER AMERICAN MISSION HAS ONLY ATTEMPTED TO DEAL WITH EGYPTIAN ARMY AT THE LOCAL HOSPITAL OR DISTRICT LEVELS, OR HAS ATTEMPTED TO REACH HIGHEST EGYPTIAN ARMY COMMAND OR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; (3) WHETHER DR. DEWIDAR MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONTACTED, FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY, SINCE HE WAS PRINCIPAL EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATOR OF THE AGREEMENT IN QUESTION, AND (4) WHETHER EVACUATION OF THE HOSPITAL BY THE EGYPTIAN ARMY IS THE SOLE REMEDY OR WHETHER OTHER OPTIONS ARE OPEN, SUCH AS CONTINUED LEASE AT AGREED AMOUNT OF RENT, PURCHASE OF THE PREMISES IN QUESTION BY THE EGYPTIAN ARMY, OR GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL PENDING AVAILABILITY OF OTHER SIMILAR FACILITIES TO THE EGYPTIAN ARMY.

3. AMERICAN MISSION CANNOT, AS A MATTER OF RIGHT, INSIST SOLELY UPON EVACUATION OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL BY THE EGYPTIAN ARMY SINCE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN WHICH IT CAN EXERCISE AS IT CHOOSES, SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF PROMPT, ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BASED ON CONCRETE FACTS. COOPER

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